

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 225
By Head

A RESOLUTION to honor Austin Peay State University star
basketball player Charles "Bubba" Wells.

WHEREAS, Charles "Bubba" Wells has set Austin Peay State University, the Ohio
Valley Conference, and the entire basketball world on fire with his awesome scoring ability; and

WHEREAS, during the memorable 1995-96 season, he led APSU in scoring (26.3
points per game), rebounding (7.3 rebounds per game), field goal shooting (54.9%) and minutes
played (36.1 minutes per game); and

WHEREAS, his incredible 26.3 points per game scoring average for the season
distinguished him as the nation's third leading scorer; and

WHEREAS, after medical problems forced him to the bench, "The Man of Steel"
returned to action on January 2, 1997; and

WHEREAS, entering the game as the nation's leading returning scorer, he burned
Southeast Missouri State University by scoring an admirable 39 points in just 28 minutes; he
connected on 13-of-22 shots, including a career-best 7 of 11 from tough three-point land; and

WHEREAS, in a magnificent record-setting performance, Bubba scorched Middle
Tennessee State University on January 23, 1997 to become APSU's all-time leading scorer;
and

WHEREAS, he scored 18 first-half points and tied the career points record early in the
second half on a three-pointer from the left wing. On the next trip down the court, he again

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nailed a three-pointer, this time from the right wing, to surpass Tom Morgan's career scoring mark of 1,850 points, a record which previously seemed unbreakable; and

WHEREAS, on February 8, 1997, this tremendously talented athlete singled the University of Tennessee Martin to become APSU's first 2000 career point scorer and the tenth 2000 career point scorer in OVC history; and

WHEREAS, he blistered the nets against Morehead State on February 22, 1997 and then again on February 25, 1997 for his first back-to-back 40-plus point effort; in the first game he scored a career-best 46 points and followed up the next game with 43 points; and

WHEREAS, "Bubba" holds numerous school records including most career points (2267), most career field goals made (870), most career free throws attempted (550) and the highest single season scoring average (31.7 points per game). He holds conference records for the OVC Tournament's single-game scoring performance (43 pts.), field goals made (17) and field goals attempted (31), total points (99 pts.), field goals made (36) and field goals attempted (76); and

WHEREAS, his excellent 31.7 points per game average made him the nation's "unofficial" 1996-1997 leading scorer; and

WHEREAS, Marty Blake, the National Basketball Association's authoritative scouting guru, appropriately labeled "Bubba" Wells as the "best offensive player" among seniors eligible for the 1997 NBA draft; and

WHEREAS, "Bubba" has been duly honored for his efforts: as a Freshman he was selected OVC "Freshman of the Year"; as a Sophomore, he was selected First-Team All-OVC and named to the All-OVC tournament team; as a Junior, he was selected OVC "Male Athlete of the Year", First-Team All-OVC, All-OVC Tournament Team, OVC Tournament Most Valuable Player, Tennessee Sportswriters Association "College Player of the Year", and National Association of Basketball Coaches All-District VII Team; as a Senior, he was selected OVC "Player of the Year", First-Team All-OVC, All-OVC Tournament Team, *Athlon's* Third-Team

Preseason All-American, United States Basketball Writers All-District Team, *Basketball Times* All-South Team, National Association of Basketball Coaches All-District VII Team, John R. Wooden Award Nominee, and *InfoSport's* "Basketball 1996-97 National Comeback Player of the Year"; and

WHEREAS, his inspirational story and numerous accomplishments have been documented by the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, *The Sporting News*, and *Slam* magazine, as well as NBC's "The Today Show" and CBS's "NCAA College Basketball Half-time Show"; and

WHEREAS, he has worked tirelessly and unselfishly donated countless hours to serving his community; and

WHEREAS, by means of such service, "Bubba" has set a fine example for his fellow teammates and students to follow and has become a role model for area youth; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being an outstanding athlete, he is an accomplished scholar, who will graduate on May 9, 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Management with a concentration in Criminal Justice; and

WHEREAS, "Bubba" is a source of tremendous pride and joy to his father, Charles, his mother, Barbara, his sister, LaShauna, and his brothers, Michael and Jamie; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor Charles "Bubba" Wells for all of his outstanding achievements and extend to him our best wishes for every future success, both on and off the court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copy.